

## Report of the Strategic Director

**GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES FOR 2021/22**1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the 2021/22 garden waste subscription fees.

2. Background

An income target of £727,000 was set for the 2020/21 subscription period. As of 1 October 2020, 21,634 properties have subscribed to the 2020/21 service, generating an income of £776,460.

The number of subscribers in 2020/21 has increased from those in 2019/20 suggesting that the service represents good value for money. However, a contributing factor to the increase in subscription numbers for 2020/21 will have been the lockdown measures imposed due to COVID 19. The restriction on the access to the Nottinghamshire County Council Recycling Centre, in conjunction with the stay and work from home principle, allowed households the opportunity to spend time in and realise the value of their garden.

The continuation of the kerbside collection throughout the COVID 19 lock down period provided households with the easiest way to dispose of their garden waste. The challenge for the 2021/22 season will be to maintain the customer base.

Outlined in the appendix are options relating to the charges for the garden waste collection service for 2021/22.

3. Financial implications

The financial implications of each option are shown in the appendix.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to the Finance and Resources Committee that:**

- 1. The price for the first bin for 2021/22 be increased to £36.**
- 2. The price for additional bins for 2021/22 be increased to £22.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX

**Charges for 2020/21**1. Comparison of charges

The table below shows the charges for the kerbside garden waste collection service for all district councils within Nottinghamshire.

Local Authority	First bin price (2020/21)	Additional bin price (2020/21)	Service Provision
Broxtowe Borough Council	£34	£18	Fortnightly March to November, monthly December through to February
Ashfield District Council	£28	£14	Fortnightly March to September
Bassetlaw District Council	£32	£32	Fortnightly March to November
Gedling Borough Council	£36	£18	Fortnightly March to December – no service January and February
Mansfield District Council	£30	£15.50	Fortnightly March to November, monthly December through to February
Newark and Sherwood	£35	£35	Fortnightly March to November, monthly December through to February
Rushcliffe Borough Council	£40	£25	Fortnightly but no collections over the Christmas and New Year period

The current fee of £34 for the first bin is around the average price across the Nottinghamshire districts. There are significant differences in the prices charged for additional bins. The current charge for an additional bin is £18 with the average price across the Nottinghamshire districts being £22.50.

By October 2020 2,223 subscribers have paid for the use of additional bins.

2. Charging mechanism

Residents can currently subscribe to the service in three ways:

- Online
- By telephone
- By using the kiosk (located in Beeston Council Offices)

Approximately 81% of Broxtowe subscribers use the online payment system. Online subscription is by far the cheapest and easiest payment method and equates to a cost of £0.15p per transaction.

### 3. Options for charges

Different proposed charges for 2021/22 are shown in the tables below. The figures used in the tables are based on 21,634 subscribers (the number as at October 2020).

The different options illustrate the projected income based on different prices for the first and additional bins.

		Projected income from first bins				
Number of bins	Number of subscribers	£34 (Current price)	£35 (Increase £1)	£36 (Increase £2)	£37 (Increase £3)	£38 (Increase £4)
1	21634	£735,556	£757,190	£778,824	£800,458	£822,092
Potential Additional Income		<b>0</b>	<b>£21,634</b>	<b>£43,268</b>	<b>£64,902</b>	<b>£86,536</b>

		Projected income from additional bins				
Number of additional bins	Number of subscribers	£18 (current price)	£19 (Increase £1)	£20 (Increase £2)	£21 (Increase £3)	£22 (Increase £4)
1	1964	£35,352	£37,316	£39,280	£41,244	£43,208
2	193	£6,948	£7,334	£7,720	£8,106	£8,492
3	49	£2,646	£2,793	£2,940	£3,087	£3,234
4	7	£504	£532	£560	£588	£616
5	5	£450	£475	£500	£525	£550
6	2	£216	£228	£240	£252	£264
7	2	£252	£266	£280	£294	£308
9	1	£162	£171	£180	£189	£198
Total		<b>£46,530</b>	<b>£49,115</b>	<b>£51,700</b>	<b>£54,285</b>	<b>£56,870</b>
Potential Additional Income		<b>0</b>	<b>£2,585</b>	<b>£5,170</b>	<b>£7,755</b>	<b>£10,340</b>

### 4. Risks

Increasing the price may increase the risk that customers do not re-subscribe. The overall number of subscribers has increased by 1448 (October 2020) from the previous year. In October 2019 the increase from the previous year at that point was 316. Whilst the increase suggests the service represent good value for money it also demonstrates the influence that COVID 19 has had on the subscription numbers. The challenge for the 2021/22 season will be to maintain the existing customer base.

## 5. Recommendations

The following charges are proposed:

- The price for the first bin is increased to £36.
- The price for additional bins is increased to £22.

It is envisaged that the price increase on the first bin will generate additional income in the region of £43,268.

It is envisaged that the price increase for the additional bin will generate additional income in the region of £10,340.

Based on the current year's subscription numbers it is predicted that these changes will not have any major effect on the customer base or the Council's recycling rate.

The price increases will ensure that the provision of the garden waste collection service is in line with neighbouring authorities.